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396 follows of time present her husband with a son. Unfortunately it is equally firmly believed that having given a life in this way the vessel will demand a life from her crew once she is afloat, and so all new vessels are closely guarded in the builders' yards until the planking has reached such a height that the most agile female would not be able to jump over the keel.

It was not long before I could manage my dhow reasonably well with the aid of my two Arab fishermen, and for excitement and exhilaration I have never met anything to equal a racing dhow in a stiff breeze being driven hard on a reach. When I became Governor I was more conventional and had a fine Bermuda-rigged "Seabird" of my own, by name Osprey, but I never had as much pleasure from the new boat as I had from my dhow which still sails the seas and was fishing off the British Somaliland coast when I last heard of her.

My second main amusement, either in the evenings or on Sundays and other public holidays, or when I was on tour in 136 the Protectorate, was shooting. Duck and sand grouse were to be had at Lahej in the Wadi Tiban; the former flighting up and down the Wadi and the latter when they came down to the Wadi to drink or were feeding in the stubble on the fields bordering the Wadi. It was a tiresome drive to Lahej over very corrugated desert and if I was just out for an evening's amusement I preferred to go down the Khormaksar beach to Aliyan in the hope of two or three ducks. When we went to Aliyan to shoot in earnest we used to set out any time after midnight on Saturday in order to work the tides. The only way to get to Aliyan was on the hard sand of the beach between high and low water, and in order to have as much time to shoot as possible the outward journey had to be made just after high water. This was a variable factor, hence the uncertainty of the time of departure when the actual driving time was only about an hour on the beach itself. I drove one Land-Rover and my guards followed in the second, more to act as beaters and retrievers than as an armed escort, though they always had their rifles just in case. When driving on the beach the trick was to follow the outgoing wave down on to the hardest part of the sand and then run up the sand again in front of the next

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incoming wave. Sometimes I was not successful in the manoeuvre and we ran into the sea and we all had a very chilly shower bath, but no-one was ever hurt and we never got stuck in the sand. We turned off the beach at a place called Al Kod and made our way on foot to the artificial lakes formed by flood water behind irrigation dams. I and my two friends—there were seldom more than three guns—have had many a happy Sunday morning wandering from lake to lake and many were the mallard or pintail or shoveller or teal that fell to our guns. We had to work hard for what we got, and twelve birds was a good individual bag. ooo

When the sun was well up and all the birds had flown out to sea to wait there until we had gone away, we would forgather on the beach and count the bag and have breakfast. There was intense rivalry among the guards, each one champ-ioning the gun he had been detailed to attend, and my own two men were bitterly disappointed if I did not shoot at least as many birds as either of my friends. Breakfast on the sands by the lovely blue sea in the warm sun was quite delightful after a fairly strenuous couple of hours walking very often up to our waist in muddy water. I always brought enough food for everybody, the guards included, and they enjoyed these trips as much as any of us. After breakfast we drove home again and would get back in time for a hot bath and a glass of cold beer before lunch.

In the highlands of the Protectorate I shot chikor, the greater hill partridge, a very handsome bird not unlike the ordinary French partridge of this country but much bigger and very beautifully marked on the sides of the breast, and See See the small hill partridge which runs like a hare and only a a last resort takes the air to skim just above the ground in a very disconcerting manner. There were blue rock pigeon on the Arabian plateau and very occasionally I saw the greater bustard, but only once was I lucky enough to shoot one, a truly magnificent bird weighing over twenty pounds and very good eating. The hares on the Arabian plateau were as big as our own hares in England and better eating, but they were difficult to get in the rocky ground. They always ascended, 136 •

• 136 or almost always, in dodging behind a rock just as I pressed the trigger. The last hare I shot was just before I left Aden when I was paying a farewell visit to the Audhali Sultan at Makeiras. I determined one morning to walk over the hills to the north-east of the village to see if I could find a covey of chikor which I knew lived in the area. The Yemen border was only a mile or so from where I was going and there was always the likelihood of running into some rascals from that country who might be engaged in less harmless hunting; so I agreed to the Sultan's suggestion that I should take two of his trusted men as well as my own six guards. I deployed my troops as two flank guards and a rear guard each of two men and kept the Sultan's two men and the Assistant Adviser with me. We set off and walked for an hour into the hills without seeing a sign of chikor, hares, or even Yemenis and we had reached a small plateau surrounded by granite boulders well up into the high hills, when suddenly there was a rifle shot fairly close to us over to the left on the Yemen side. My left flank guard was out of sight and in two seconds so were my companions who dashed madly off in the direction of the shot and were immediately hidden from my view by the boulders. I glanced round and saw that the right flank guard was in position and obviously very excited, while the rear guard was racing in the direction of the Yemen presumably to the assistance of their companions. I was left to my own devices armed with a twelve-bore shot-gun, a very useful weapon at close quarters, and as there seemed no point in doing anything else, I continued to walk forward across the plateau. I had gone only a few yards when there was another rifle shot, this time very close to me on my left and I stopped dead and waited to see what would happen next, with my gun ready to give any assailant a warm welcome. Then round a boulder in front of me there came a very large hare moving as if all the devils in hell were behind him. I shot him and as I did so all the devils in the shape of my guards, the Sultan's men and the Assistant Adviser came rushing round the boulder in hot pursuit of the unfortunate animal who had been the cause of all the excitement. He had been put up by the flank guard and the man nearest to him had had a shot

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and started the confusion. I cursed all and sundry and we re-formed and continued our advance, but the rest of the morning was uneventful, not even the Yemenis putting in an appearance, and we returned to Mukeiras with the hare alone to show for our trouble.

Shooting blue rock pigeon on the Audhali plateau was an amusing pastime and required a certain knack. The best time was from 6.30 a.m. to 7.15 a.m. when they flew in packs of from five to fifty up the steep Wadis, from their nesting places on the edge of the escarpment, out on to the fields of the plateau to feed. They returned two or three hours later, but they then flew far too high and were too scattered to make it worth while going out. The plan was to station the guns on the sides of a Wadi where they could intercept the outward flight. The birds flew at about the same level as the guns and preferred to fly along the Wadi sides rather than up the centre. It looked very simple shooting, but what the inexperienced gun did not realise was that the birds were advancing on him at between thirty and forty miles an hour, with the result that he invariably fired too late and to his annoyance often registered a phenomenal number of clean misses. The trick was to fire the right barrel when you thought the birds were just out of range. This broke up the formation and gave a chance for a second shot. If the birds passed to one side of the gun they could be enfiladed, but this was a risky business because all the little boys from any nearby village came out as soon as they heard the first shot fired and hid among the rocks on the hillside ready to rush down and collect the empty cartridge cases as soon as the shoot was over.

There were a few quail among the sweet potatoes in the Lahej oasis and they could be good fun, but there were always too many people working in the fields for my peace of mind. I never did hit anyone, I am glad to say, but the cattle were less fortunate and one afternoon I peppered a cow. The No. 8 shot produced an extraordinary rash on the animal, but otherwise it did not seem to be much the worse for wear, though from the shrill lamentations from the old woman who was in charge of the animal anyone would have imagined I

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had shot her and not her cow. A judicious gift of hard cash put an abrupt end to the cries and the old creature hustled the unfortunate cow along in front of her with a sharp pointed stick in her hand to get home to her family and display her wealth.

It was on my way back from this quail shoot that a small boy put me very nearly in my place. He was in charge of a string of camels moving down the middle of what passed for a road, each tied by a cord through the nose to the tail of the one in front. I was driving very carefully and I slowed down when I saw the camels so as not to frighten them, but in spite of my care they stampeded and got themselves all mixed up as a nylon line does when the reel overruns. The boy gave His Excellency the Governor, myself, one very expressive look as he rushed off to sort out the tangle and asked this pertinent or impertinent question—it depends on the point of view:

"Who gave birth to you?"

Rude, but very neat, and I burst out laughing, but not so my guards who were furious and had to be restrained from touching the young man unseen.

So much for the small game possibilities of Aden. There were still oryx in the Rub'-al-Khali, in spite of Land-Rovers, gazelle on the plains and ibex in the Wahidi country, but they are very hard to reach and impossible unless one happens to be stationed in the Protectorate and even then access is not easy; the country is wild and so are the people.

To the big game enthusiast (and I am no longer one since I sickened of wiring animals' heads on my walls), British Somaliland is only eighteen hours away across the Gulf of Aden by local steamer from Aden. There is game in plenty there, and always the chance, no more, of a lion. The last time I was there was to shoot sand grouse with the Governor, Sir Theodore Pike, in a dry wadi. We were stationed by the only water for many miles round and the birds came in hundreds to drink. We contented ourselves with taking a few single birds, to shoot at the coveys would have been murder, and then by mutual consent we stopped and watched. I was amazed at what I saw. We were standing within ten yards of the water

A 324 drafts lead from lavatories in the upper stories to a reception chamber on the ground floor, is widely used in the larger houses in Western Aden Protectorate and the Hadhramaut. Pit or surface privies are sometimes found in the courtyards of the smaller houses, but the majority have no facilities for the disposal of sewage wastes. Indiscriminate pollution of the soil is a general practice.

Fauna and Flora

A 459 Few entomologic surveys have been made in this region, and data regarding the insect vectors and animal hosts of human disease are fragmentary. It is probable, however, that the species identified in the neighboring territories are present in Aden Protectorate under similar physiogeographic conditions.

● A 324 [illegible] *Arthropoda. Mosquitoes. Anopheles adenensis (— A. culicifacies adenensis)* is the most important anopheline mosquito in Aden Colony. Although it has been eradicated from Aden and Sheikh Othman townships, it persists in near-by oases, and is a major vector of malaria wherever it is encountered. In the last local outbreak in the Subeiha hut district of Sheikh Othman, *A. adenensis* was found breeding in large numbers in the soakpits. It normally breeds in wells, shallow cisterns, irrigation canals and sluggish streams, and, before the institution of effective control measures, had become adapted to the high salinity of the subpits seepages.

A [illegible] *A. gambiae* is widely distributed in the Protectorate, where it probably acts as the principal vector of malaria. It breeds along the edges of pools and streams, in irrigation canals, in wells and in numerous other collections of water. *A. turkhudi, A. coustani, A. d'thali, A. pretoriensis* and *A. barbirostris* have also been reported from various localities.

A 324 [illegible] *Aedes aegypti*, the usual urban vector of yellow fever elsewhere, and *A. vittatus*, a tree-hole breeder implicated in the transmission of yellow fever in endemic foci in

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Africa, are found in the coastal area. Numerous species of *Culex* are present, including *C. quinquefasciatus* (— *C. fatigans*), a potential vector of filariasis. A species of *Taeniorhynchus* has been described from Western Aden Protectorate.

Mosquito control measures have been carried on by the health authorities in the Colony for several decades. They involve weekly inspections of all premises to eliminate breeding sites, the protection and the larvicidal treatment of permanent bodies of water, the reclamation of swamps and low-lying lands in the vicinity of the towns, and the supervision of the dhows using the port. The Aedes index was 0.014 per cent in 1950, in contrast with 4 per cent in 1930.

FLIES. Flies are abundant in towns and villages, where the insanitary conditions around markets, cattlesheds and dwellings favor prolific breeding. They are most numerous between November and March. The house flies, *Musca domestica* and related species, are ubiquitous and undoubtedly play a role in the spread of intestinal and eye infections. The stable fly, *Stomoxys calcitrans*, is prevalent. Sandflies are numerous, among which *Phlebotomus papatasii* is presumably of primary medical concern. The tsetse fly, *Glossina tachinoides*, was reported early in this century from the Haushabi and the Subeihi tribal districts in Western Aden Protectorate.[9] It has not been collected in recent surveys, however, and the original observations remain the only record of its appearance outside Africa.[10] Campaigns against flies, employing DDT, Gammexane and other insecticidal sprays in markets and public buildings, are undertaken periodically by the health authorities in the two townships of the Colony.

LICE. All forms of human lice are found, particularly among the inhabitants of towns and villages in the interior. *Pediculus humanus corporis* is prevalent in the highland villages, where it is the vector of louse-borne typhus and louse-borne relapsing fever.

FLEAS. Both *Xenopsylla cheopis* and *X. astia* parasitize the rats in this region.

They are potential vectors of plague, but no cases have been recorded for several decades. The human flea, *Pulex irritans*, is common and has been suspected of transmitting plague from man to man in past outbreaks. Species of *Ctenocephalides* undoubtedly occur, as in the adjacent territories.

Ticks and Mites. Several species of ticks infest both wild and domestic animals in the rural areas. The human itch mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, is unusual among the schoolchildren in the Colony, although it is widespread in the poor communities in Yemen and the Protectorate.

Reptiles. The puff adder, *Bitis arietans*, inhabits some portions of the western highlands. The carpet viper, *Echis coloratus*, and the sand vipers, *Aspis cerastes* (— *Cerastes cornutus*) and *A. vipera* (— *C. vipera*), are described from southern Arabia, but their prevalance within Aden territory is uncertain.

Rodents. *Rattus rattus rattus* and *R. rattus alexandrinus* are widely distributed. At least 90 to 95 per cent of the rats captured in the Colony have been identified as *R. rattus*. In spite of the diversity of shipping activities, *R. norvegicus* is seldom encountered. Active measures for the destruction of rodents in the bazaars and the dwellings in the towns and on the dhows visiting the port are carried on by the Colonial health authorities. No controls are exercised over the larger vessels, which have to anchor in the harbor. A representative proportion of the captured rodents are examined annually for evidence of plague.

Wild rodents are common, including species of *Meriones*, *Jaculus* and *Gerbillus*.

Molluska. Foci of *Schistosoma haematobium* and *S. mansoni* infection exist in Western Aden Protectorate, but the intermediate snail hosts have not been positively identified. Planorbis and Bulinus snails have been reported from Mukeiras and Museimir, and Bulinus from the Dhala' plateau. *Melanoides tuberculata* and other species are found in several areas.

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Queries regard undernutrition and incorrect methods of feeding as important underlying factors. The deaths in infants under 1 year of age totaled 171 in 1950, or about 44 per cent of the known dysentery deaths.

M 164

No precise information is available regarding bacillary and amebic dysentery in the Protectorate, but the high rate of infection among visitors to Aden Colony suggests that both are widespread.

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Cholera. Cholera has not been reported from Aden within the present century, although outbreaks have followed its introduction in the past. Since no record exists of its presence in the Hadhramaut, it is probable that the disease was largely confined to the port towns.

During the 1947 outbreak in Egypt, traffic through Aden was increased due to the quarantine restrictions imposed on Egyptian ports. Special precautions were taken by the health authorities to prevent the admission of infected individuals or goods by sea, land or air routes. Immunization against cholera was also provided for all persons handling shipping and for all health service personnel.

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Helminthiases. Schistosomiasis. Schistosomiasis is endemic in scattered localities in Western Aden Protectorate, especially in the highland districts above 2,000 feet elevation. Foci of *Schistosoma haematobium* are known to exist in the Jebel Jehaf and Dhala' plateau country, in the Wadi Tiban area around Mussimir, and in the vicinity of Tor am Baha, Huweni and Khor 'Umeira. *S. mansoni* is apparently more restricted in distribution, but it is found in the Jebel Jehaf and the Wadi Tiban regions.

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No locally acquired infections are reported from the Colony, although numerous cases among persons from the interior are treated in the civilian hospitals each year. A large proportion of the cases seen in Aden Colony come from Yemen or from the Dhala' and the Mussimir districts.

M A 136

The intermediate snail hosts of *S. haematobium* and *S. mansoni* have not been definitely established, but Bulinus and Planor-

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his smalls have been described from stools of the affected fed.

Ancylostomiasis. Hookworm infection occurs in Lahej and a few agricultural centers in Western Aden Protectorate. *Necator americanus* has been identified in the cases treated at the Civil Hospital in Aden.[29]

Other Helminth Infections. Infections with one or more types of intestinal worms are prevalent, particularly among the peoples of the Protectorate. Ascariasis is widespread. Trichuriasis and, to a lesser extent, enterobiasis are common. Hydatid disease is reported among individuals from the Colony and from the interior. Infection with the beef tapeworm, *Taenia saginata*, is enzootic among the cattle in the tribal districts, and human infections are undoubtedly frequent. Cases are occasionally encountered among immigrant families in the Colony. The pork tapeworm, *T. solium*, is rare, but infections are sometimes seen in the Aden hospitals.

Other Infections. *Brucella melitensis* is enzootic among the goats in this area, and Malta fever is diagnosed from time to time in the Colony hospitals and dispensaries.

Diseases Spread Chiefly Through the Respiratory Tract

Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is one of the most prominent diseases affecting the inhabitants of southern Arabia, but no precise information is available, except for Aden Colony. The high degree of undernutrition and overcrowding, and the low standards of personal hygiene and sanitation prevailing among large sections of the population, favor the spread of the infection. The disease is probably prevalent among the women who are confined to close quarters by the *purdah* system and among the young children in close contact with them. In a small tuberculin test survey covering 95 Aden township schoolboys of 7 to 12 years of age, in 1945,[3] positive reactions were obtained in 56 per cent—a rate which ranks high among those usually found in

areas and P. vivax are found in most regions, but P. malariae is apparently relatively rare. A. gambiae is widely distributed, and is regarded as the principal vector in the Protectorate.

Rickettsial Infections. Louse-borne typhus has been recognized in the highlands of southwestern Arabia since 1939, and occasional imported cases are admitted to hospitals in the Colony. In 1944-45, epidemics of typhus were recorded from Western Aden Protectorate which were secondary to foci in Yemen. The disease first appeared in Aden in January, 1944, among Jewish emigrants who had traveled overland from Yemen and were awaiting transport to Israel. Fifteen cases were reported, all but 2 of which were members of the Jewish community. The movement of Yemenis across the frontiers was restricted, and a camp at Lahej which at that time harbored some 1,600 Jewish emigrants was transferred to a quarantine site in the desert. Sick individuals from the Jewish quarters in the town were removed to the camp, and wholesale delousing measures were enforced both at the camp and in infected areas in the town. The spread of the infection in the Colony was curtailed, but new outbreaks developed in the Amiri and the Subeihi tribal districts, near the Yemeni border, and progressed along the trade routes to within 40 miles of Aden Colony. The importance of the port and military installations during the prevailing war emergency necessitated the creation of a sanitary cordon to isolate the Colony from the interior.

The infection persisted in epidemic form in the Protectorate, spreading eastward to the Dhala' plateau and the mountainous villages of the Lower Yafa'i country. In many localities, 10 to 25 per cent of the inhabitants are believed to have suffered from the disease. Insecticidal powders, as well as antityphus vaccine, were supplied by the United States Typhus Commission, and mass dusting campaigns were carried on in the villages visited by the medical

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